

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3, 8 and 10 have been amended and claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 8, 10 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 11 are the independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at page 2, the drawings were objected to. In view of the accompanying separate Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings, corrections to FIG. 2 have been requested. Therefore, the outstanding drawing objections should be resolved.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 3 and 10 are objected to because of various informalities.

Claims 3 and 10 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 3 and 10 be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 is moot.

Claims 7-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants note that claims 8 and 10 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8 and 10, as amended, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and therefore, the rejection of claims 8 and 10 should be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claim 7, as noted above, claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 is moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yokoyama et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,459,733 (hereinafter "Yokoyama").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reason.

Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 7 is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

Claims 1-2, 4 and 11 are allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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